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Letter to Patrick Guiney, 1862 August 18

John Mahan

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Suffolk Co

August 16. 1862

This day the within named John W. Mahan personally appeared before me at Boston in said County, and he being duly sworn deposed that the within statement by him subscribed is true, and subscribed to the same in my presence.

Taken to be used at the trial of Col. Patrick R. Guiney, by Court of 9th Regt Mass. Vols, by

joined two pieces of Artillery upon
our Camp at Harrison's Landing, being
unable to walk on the wounded leg
I rode to the front with the regiment
and remained doing duty all the time
until ordered on Recruiting Service.

John F. Mahan
Capt. 9th Mass. Vol.

Aug. 16th 1862.

Colonel Guiney, who had been complaining of severe indisposition during the day, was so prostrated that he could not ride his horse and, gave up Command to Major Hanly. On the 30th of June Colonel Guiney was much worse and was obliged to ride in the ambulance.

~~ment of other circumstances occurring, - he returned~~
I am detailed on the recruiting service for the State of Massachusetts. I have been in the regiment ever since its organization and been in every skirmish and battle, in which my Regiment participated.

Was in the battles fought at Mechanicsville, Guiney Mills, and Malvern, and was present all the time when the Regiment was engaged. At Guiney Mills, in

consequence of ~~the~~ Colonel Cass being compelled to give up Command of the Regiment, Colonel Guiney, who had been in the field and at his post with his Regiment - assumed Command, and led the Regiment in nine successive charges up the hill near the Hospital where line of battle had been previously formed; and, which has already been reported to in General Hovey's official report. Col. Guiney was in the thickest of the fight and several times gave up Command to Major Hanly but, as many times returned to take Command himself.

At my time during that day Colonel Cass, said to me that he would

I John D. Mahan Captain of
Company D, Ninth Regiment of
Massachusetts Volunteers, of the age
of Twenty-one years, being duly sworn
on oath do say -

I am Captain of Company D, Ninth Reg-

iment. I was ordered to
retrace their steps and take position
upon Malvern Hill, Colonel Cass ~~that~~
Colonel Quincy ~~that~~ "I know how to
feel for a sick man - I had better
remain in the ambulance, as I feel
a little stronger and feel it is my
duty to go with the Regiment," he
wrote to that effect.

Some of
my know whether we were going, but
our Regiment was posted on the extreme
left of the battery of field artillery,
in front of a large mansion on the hill,
we retold our position again on the evening
of the 30th and laid down in the
wheat field near the house alluded
to, and near to the right.

The
next day, the first day of July, our
Regiment shifted position several times
while supporting the batteries.

Colonel
of the fight and led the Regiment being
conspicuously exposed to the enemy's fire,
but, at no time was he absent when
the Regiment was under the enemy's fire.

June 28th and 29th Colonel Quincy
commanded the Regiment Colonel Cass
being still unable to ride his horse.

Upon the evening of the Twenty-ninth

Who the individuals are, but -
I make no exception; their
names cannot cover their
guilt. I would deem
it an especial favor if you
would let them read my
opinion of their characters.

If anybody is desiring of
knowing my opinion of you,
let them refer to the Gazette
published several weeks since,
but what is my opinion?

I spoke of Gen. Sherman's
official report of the Battle
of Gaines' Mills, in my former
letter to you - I intended
to send the extract taken from
the N. Y. Herald to the Boston
Journal for publication but,
I will enclose it in this
letter - show it to the slanderers
and make them eat their words.

Ms 2
Dec

I wish you would give
it to the Journal for publication.

It is late & I am not
well so I must finish
this hastily written eulogy
upon the defunct reputation
of the very brave & valiant
stay at home gossip.

I trust you are better -
Some of the officers are very
little better than the individuals
referred to - But they have
had my opinion & you
can see them occasionally in
tows & thrus whispering, - as if
to plan some way of action,
by which they can advance
their own selfish ends - Gen.
Griffin is posted on all - he is
a Latitudinarian kind of man.
He sent for me to thank

me, he said, for my services -

He recommended me
strongly to the Commanding General
for leave to go home and assist
in recruiting, with the understanding
that I should only be gone
three weeks or a month, - long
enough to recruit my health -

Gen. Moull approved
the appointment but nothing
more has been heard from it.

I think Porter is holding it
back until your arrival, not
wishing to let a Captain go
at the present time. When
you arrive you must assist
me in getting a short leave -

Write & send me some papers -
I remain

Ever yours,
John W. Mahan
"Capt. C. D.